



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INMATE, ACCOMPLICE PLEAD GUILTY TO TAX FRAUD CONSPIRACY

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that John Clayton Stone, age 32, currently housed at the McCormick Correctional Institution, and Tasha Glover, age 38, of Grovetown, Georgia, pled guilty today in federal court in Columbia to Conspiracy to Make False, Fictitious, or Fraudulent Claims, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 286. Chief United States District Judge Margaret B. Seymour of Columbia accepted the plea and will impose their sentences within the next three months.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that inmate Stone caused fictitious tax returns to be filed requesting false refunds. For the tax year 2008, Stone and others caused false returns to be submitted claiming

approximately \$1,094,086 in refunds. The Internal Revenue Service caught most of the false claims, but still paid \$275,221 in refunds. He was assisted by Tasha Glover, who received approximately fifty false tax refund checks and cashed them at a convenience store in Augusta, in exchange for a fee from Stone.

Mr. Nettles stated, "Our office will vigorously pursue those who abuse the tax system for personal gain, particularly those who do so from prison. Honest taxpayers deserve to know that their contributions are going to further the good work of the federal government and not lining the pockets of criminals."

According to IRS Special Agent in Charge Jeannine A. Hammett, "It is a top priority for IRS to stop the promoters and perpetrators of false tax refund schemes, and these guilty pleas demonstrate that we will continue to do our best to insure offenders will be caught and prosecuted for these crimes."

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty Stone and Glover can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for ten years, plus a special assessment of \$100.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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